Tobacco Research Institute. The Tobacco Board only co-ordinates the transfer of technology and knowledge developed by the Institute to the farmers.

Anti-dumping investigations by China on pathalic anhydride

3678. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has initiated anti-dumping investigations against exports of pathalic anhydride from India;

(b) if so, whether this investigation covers such exports from South Korea and Japan; and

(c) whether India is likely to evolve a joint strategy with Korea and Japan to counter the dumping charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Slapping of import tariff by US on Indian steel

3679. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has slapped high import tariff on steel, affecting India's Steel exports;

(b) whether this move by US also denies access to steel exporters from Japan, South Korea and the European Union;

(c) if so, whether India apprehends large-scale dumping of steel out of floating consignments from Russia, Japan and the European Union into its soil; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) US President has on 5th March, 2002 decided to impose safeguard duties on a broad range of steel products imported into USA. However, the developing countries *including India* have been excluded from the remedy action as per the Safeguards Agreement, except in the case relating to import of *carbon flanges from India.* In respect of flanges safeguard duty of 13%, 10% and 7% respectively have been imposed for three years and one day which is applicable from 20th March, 2002. This may have negative impact on our exports of the item to USA even though it is too early to make a quantitative estimate of the extent of the impact of the Safeguard action.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The anti-dumping investigations can be initiated as and when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and a casual link between dumping of imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. The effects of trade distortion caused by dumping can be removed by way of imposing anti-dumping duty. Anti-dumping investigations concerning imports of cold rolled flat products of stainless steel from European Union, Japan, USA and Canada are currently being conducted where provisional anti-dumping duties have already been imposed on 28.12.2001.

Transport assistance to agricultural exports

3680. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved 'Farm to Port' transport assistance for export of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Under the extant Exim Policy transport assistance is proposed to be made available for export of select agriculture